

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Ozias M. Hatch, William Butler, and Jesse K. Dubois to Abraham Lincoln, July 22, 1861

Springfield. Illinois July 22d 1861

Dr Sir.

It is reported in this city, that you have written a letter to Mr Ninian W. Edwards, in which you say, "that as soon as Congress passes the necessary laws, you will appoint him Quarter Master, to be assigned duty and attached to General Fremonts Division."¹ We do not believe that you have written such a letter, although it comes to us upon what, under ordinary circumstances, would be good authority. For several years we have been ferriting out, and exposing, the most stupendous and unprecedented frauds ever perpetrated in this country, by men closely connected with Mr Edwards. The desperate character of this contest, and its results you know as well as we do. Knowing all this we cannot, as we have said, believe it to be true. We wish however to protest against such an appointment, in the most emphatic manner, and do most solemnly protest against it. If appointed we feel assured that he may be an instrument only, in the hands of these men, with Gov Matteson at their head.

¹ Lincoln appointed Ninian Edwards a captain and commissary of subsistence in August 1861.

We do not charge corruption upon Mr Edwards, but do say from association and circumstances he ought not to be appointed to said office.

Respectfully and Truly Yours,

O. M. Hatch Sec. State.

William Butler Treasurer

Jesse K Dubois Auditor